

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY IN SAN FRANCISCO
BY SENATOR PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS.

QUOTE: SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS
POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN
WILLIAMS, THE U.S. NEGOTIATOR FOR THE U.S.-MARIANAS POLITICAL
STATUS TALKS, CONCLUDED TWO DAYS OF INFORMAL MEETINGS IN SAN
FRANCISCO TODAY BY JOINTLY ANNOUNCING THAT THE NEXT FORMAL TALKS
BETWEEN THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S., LOOKING TOWARDS A POLITICAL
UNION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WITH THE U.S. UPON TERMINATION OF
THE TRUST AGREEMENT, WILL TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER.

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AFTER REVIEWING PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE DURING THE MAY-JUNE

1973 NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE FURTHER WORK WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SUBSEQUENTLY BY JOINT WORKING SUB-COMMITTEES IT WAS AGREED THE TALKS WOULD OPEN ON DECEMBER 6, 1973 ON SAIPAN.

THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS LEFT OVER FROM THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION, A FURTHER EXCHANGE ON THE FUTURE FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND A CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LAND NOW HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE TTPI GOVERNMENT, AND FUTURE U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS IN THE MARIANAS. CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS ALSO AGREED THAT A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TRANSITION TO SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE CALLING OF A MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WOULD BE USEFUL.

IN ASSESSING THE RECORD OF THE PAST TEN MONTHS SINCE THE OPENING OF THE TALKS LEADING TO A POLITICAL UNION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE U.S., SENATOR PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE. BOTH ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING TOWARD A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR THEIR APPROVAL IN THE FORM OF A PLEBISCITE. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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